

Minutes of the St Anne's College MCR Committee Meeting of the 30th November 2012, held at 7:00

Present: Daniel Alati, Laura Ludtke, James Searle, Jack Prescott, Eva-Maria Risse, Kevin Busch, Octavia Cox, Christine Okoth, Julia Tanner, Rhyannon Bartlett-Imadegawa, Jennifer Lim, Dominic Davies, Alexander Lewis, Hafsa Zayyan, Rebecca McKavanagh, Gillian Lake, Samantha Seiter

Apologies: Ziyaad Borat, Eamonn Maguire, Min Wu

- **1. Consideration of Agenda:**
 - Agenda for meeting approved
 - The importance of a detailed handover between the old and new committee members was emphasised by the outgoing president.
- **2. Consideration of Minutes from Week 5 MCR Committee Meeting from Week 5 and Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a) Constitutional amendments
 - Constitutional amendments voted on in the previous meeting have been passed by governing body. The outgoing president highlighted the importance of constitutionalising the Graduate Feedback Questionnaire.
 - b) Reception of Exit/Fresher's Week reports
 - Both the outgoing and incoming presidents noted that the response of some of the college authorities to the outgoing committee's exit report has been disappointing considering the committee's previously good working relationship with the selfsame individuals. The unwillingness of individuals in the college administration to meet with committee members to discuss these matters was also discussed.
 - The incoming president emphasised the importance of not letting these difficulties overwhelm the committee given our healthy relationship with catering staff etc., and pledged to take the initiative in repairing any damage with regards to cases where communication has become difficult.
- **3. Treasurer's Business:**
 - a) Report of outgoing treasurer/vote on bank handover
 - Accounts for the year 2011-2012 were presented to the approval of the committee by the outgoing treasurer, and it was noted that the MCR was in a stronger fiscal position than it was a year previous. As well as this summary expenditures and incomes for Michaelmas term thus far were presented.
 - The outgoing treasurer raised a vote on the transfer of bank signatory powers from James Searle and Daniel Alati (the outgoing treasurer and president respectively) to Jennifer Lim and Laura Ludtke (their incoming equivalents). The motion passed unanimously and the outgoing treasurer agreed to co-ordinate the handover process.
 - b) Discussion of possible grant increase
 - The incoming and outgoing treasurers related a meeting they had with the College Treasurer, where the potential for both an MCR grant increase and a

role for the MCR in helping to fund sport in the college through the Amalgamated Sports Club Fund were discussed.

- The outgoing treasurer requested that all other committee members suggest items of expenditure they would be able to consider under a grant increase that they would not be able to consider now, so that this could form part of a more substantial request for funds from college.
- c) Discussion of 2012/13 budget
 - The incoming treasurer proposed a draft budget to be amended for a vote in the next committee meeting. It was again emphasised that committee members think in detail about projects they would like to initiate and the rough costings of those projects so that the MCR can spend money efficiently.
 - The incoming treasurer and president suggested that a rethink about magazine spending should take place, potentially using an online survey to find out how to best meet the needs of the MCR members
- **4) Election results**
 - A) Vote on new academic affairs officer
 - Kevin Busch was unanimously voted into the position of Academic Affairs Officer in accordance with the provisions in the MCR constitution
 - B) Introduction of new committee
 - Committee members introduced themselves and the outgoing and incoming presidents briefly explained the committee hierarchy and structure. At this point due to confusion over college committees it was decided by the outgoing president and informally approved that the agenda should be changed so that 5c) came next, allowing this confusion to be dealt with immediately
- **5) Old President's Business**
 - c) Introduction of College Meetings
 - The outgoing president clarified the times and dates of the major college committees, explaining that broader issues were raised at some whereas others were more suited to particular day-to-day concerns
 - D) Associate membership for Michael Rickner
 - The outgoing president raised a vote on the acceptance of Mr Rickner as an associate member of the college, allowing him to use some college facilities. There was some discussion as to whether Mr Rickner would be expected to pay a fee, but it was decided given the facts of the case that the vote would be on allowing him free associate membership. The vote passed unanimously.
 - B) Termcards
 - The incoming president suggested that in future termcards should be printed and put in kitchens to help spread the word to those not on the email list
 - A) Graduate Feedback Questionnaire
 - It was decided that given the remaining agenda and time pressure that discussion of the Questionnaire should be postponed to the next meeting

- **6) New President's Business**
 - A) 2012-13 Initiatives
 - The incoming president asked committee meetings to think about what the relationship between the College and MCR should be. The discussion was brief, but focused on the need to ensure that the MCR has meaningful autonomy whilst still remaining integrated with college life. Concerns were raised about the extent to which the MCR is fully recognised by college.
 - Mention was also made of the need to ensure that promises made by college authorities regarding Robert Saunders House were delivered upon
 - i) In the absence of Eamonn Maguire, the incoming president on his behalf announced the intention to have a new computer system for dinner booking etc. operational by the beginning of Hilary term
 - ii) There was a discussion about the possibility of MCR student profiles on either the MCR website or the college website. The incoming president suggested that doing this on the MCR website would be an unfair level of work for the Computer Representative. It was noted that college is prototyping a similar system for alumni but that it would not be ready in the short or medium term. After some discussion it was decided to let college take the lead on creating the system given the lack of urgency relating to the issue.
 - iii) The Sports Secretary raised the issue of perhaps charging a fee for the gym to allow maintenance and expansion to be paid for without using MCR funds. Committee members expressed doubts about whether people would be prepared to pay for the gym in its current state. It was decided to postpone discussion on this issue until Trinity term, and to include questions on the gym in the next Graduate Feedback Questionnaire.
 - iv) The Sports Secretary announced his intention to canvass MCR involvement in college sports teams to see if the MCR should begin to involve itself in sports funding, in relation to matters discussed in 3)b) above. He will report back to the committee when his investigation is complete.
 - V) The Academic Affairs Officer discussed plans for greater MCR involvement in the College Careers Week in Hilary Term. He noted that the primary issue was working out what MCR members wanted from the week, and suggested a survey (perhaps incorporating the issues raised earlier regarding magazines) to be sent electronically. The possibility of CV workshops, sessions involving academic careers and career speed-dating were all raised. The Academic Affairs officer also noted college's keenness to have more of the academic welfare sessions the MCR offered in fresher's week. Additionally, he raised the issue of special careers events for those looking to apply for DPhils, though the incoming president pointed out that the early deadline for those applications meant that this idea could not be initiated this year. The Academic Affairs Officer also noted that he wished to work with the organisers of the Discussion Groups to evaluate the effectiveness of those events.

- Vi) The Charities Representative announced plans to charge for next term's half term party to raise money for Cowley Road Works, as well as to possibly organise bake sales at welfare teas and to co-ordinate a charity football match with the assistance of the outgoing president.
 - Vii) The International Representative discussed plans for a sake evening, a secret santa for those in college over the vacation (a group primarily composed of international students) and a Chinese New Year buffet next term.
 - Viii) The Women's Representative and Equalities Representative announced their intention to hold a Women's and Equality Awareness Event, now most likely in Trinity term, with the aim of raising awareness. There was also discussion of the possibility of having a 'V-day' event on Valentine's Day.
 - ix) The incoming president confirmed plans to invite residents of Robert Saunders House to have tea with the wardens to improve and clarify relations.
- **7) Welfare Business**
 - A) Possibility of supporting JCR purchase of a condom machine for college
 - This proved to be a controversial topic, and points were made regarding the value of the proposal for MCR members, especially considering what other committee members might be able to do with the money. However, it was agreed that supporting the JCR would improve relations, and having a condom machine would also allow the Welfare Representatives to fulfil their duties more effectively. The motion was raised as to whether to offer in the region of £50-£60 to the JCR, and passed unanimously.
 - Additionally, plans for a mental health themed Science Discussion Group were mentioned
- **8) Other Business**
 - A) Lockers in the Library
 - The Environment Officer pledged to research the cost of implementing a locker system in the MCR or library for the next meeting
 - B) Social Secretary issues
 - A vote was held on the motion that Social Secretaries should be able to subsidise 50% of the cost of their exchange dinner tickets, so long as this was budgeted for. The vote passed unanimously.
 - The matter of a Social Secretary bank account was postponed for the next meeting due to time pressure.

James Searle

MCR Secretary